

*Indian Education*

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** 1. No.

2. Nil

3. Not applicable

• (2:30 p.m.)

**MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S.O. 26****INDIAN AFFAIRS****INDIAN EDUCATION IN NORTHEASTERN ALBERTA**

**Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca):** Mr. Speaker, under Standing Order 26 I ask leave to move a motion for the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter, namely, the crisis in Indian education in northeastern Alberta. Therefore I move, seconded by the hon. member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski):

That the House do adjourn to discuss this important matter.

**Mr. Chrétien:** I wish to rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform the uninformed member that the two reserves have voted to return to the school system and the pupils should be back in school soon if they are not back now.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** I did not understand clearly the purport of the minister's question of privilege. In any event, the Chair will refer to the motion proposed at this time by the hon. member for Athabasca.

The Chair has received the required notice under the provision of Standing Order 26 from the hon. member for Athabasca, dealing with the matter to which he has alluded in his proposed motion for the adjournment of the House.

I have given very earnest consideration to the problem posed by the hon. member, and I wish to state immediately that it is my view that this is a matter of great concern not only to him but I am sure to all hon. members.

I have had an opportunity to give careful consideration to the explanatory material submitted by the hon. member in conjunction with his proposed motion, and in passing I wish to say to him that I am most grateful to him for the assistance he has rendered to the Chair in its perusal of the problem. It is most helpful indeed for the Chair to have as full an understanding on a situation which might affect the granting of a debate under Standing Order 26 as possible.

Having said that, I am faced with the question whether or not the problem alluded to by the hon. member meets the procedural requirements of Standing Order 26.

I have thought about this question carefully and have come to the conclusion that, for the time being at least, I cannot agree that the scheduled business of the House should be set aside for the purpose of an emergency debate on this matter. I say this with some regret, but that regret is tempered by my understanding—that under-

[Mr. Rodrigue.]

standing was conveyed to the Chair by the hon. member in the written material which he submitted for my consideration along with his notice of motion—that there may be a desire on the part of hon. members to set some time aside by agreement for an opportunity to discuss this problem. If that is the case, consultations might lead to an arrangement under which a discussion could be held in the House at an early moment.

However, having considered all the circumstances and taking into account the possibility of a debate in other circumstances, I would not feel disposed to agree to the hon. member's request for the setting aside of our normal business under the provisions of Standing Order 26.

**MOTIONS FOR PAPERS**

**Mr. J. A. Jerome (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, notice of motion No. 260 is acceptable to the government, and I would like to table the documents forthwith.

**CORRESPONDENCE CONCERNING ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE FROM PROPOSED TANKER ROUTE**

Motion No. 260—**Mr. Anderson:**

That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency praying that he will cause to be laid before this House a copy of the government's communication to the Government of the United States presented in the latter half of August of 1971 concerning environmental damage from the proposed tanker route between Valdez, Alaska and Cherry Point, Washington.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr. Jerome:** Mr. Speaker, would you be so kind as to call notices of motions Nos. 254 and 258.

**COPY OF CORRESPONDENCE RELATIVE TO ALLEGATIONS MADE BY ROBIN AUSTIN AND JOHN FEATHERSTONHAUGH, Q.C.**

Motion No. 254—**Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):**

That an Order of the House do issue for copies of all correspondence between the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and the Combines Investigation Branch relative to allegations made by Robin Austin, Esq. and John Featherstonhaugh, Q.C.

**Mr. D. R. Tolmie (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, it is contrary to public policy to produce internal correspondence of the type mentioned which are privileged and confidential communications. In the circumstances I wonder whether the hon. member would withdraw his motion.

**Mr. Baldwin:** I think the hon. member may want to make that decision when he returns.

**Mr. MacEachen:** Transfer for debate.

**Mr. Speaker:** Transferred for debate.